



MRI and Multiple Sclerosis

KMH Cardiology & Diagnostic Centres supports diagnostic imaging, investigation and research that may assist in the development of treatment for Multiple Sclerosis. Recent research has suggested there may be a link between Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency (CCSVI) and Multiple Sclerosis (MS). While more research is required, KMH is one of select facilities performing screening for CCSVI using an advanced MRI technique called MR Venography. This type of screening requires the use of highly specialized equipment and training which is currently available at KMH.

MS & CCSVI

CCSVI has been suggested by recent research to be a cause of MS. While more research is required, many MS sufferers, their physicians and families are exploring treatment in this area. At KMH, we perform a complete 'traditional' MS MRI study of the brain and cervical cord in addition to CCSVI screening.

Currently in the medical literature, the cause and effect of CCSVI and MS remains uncertain. At KMH we use the research based MRI protocol developed by Dr. Mark Haacke to ensure consistency of MRI data analysis which includes Susceptibility Weighted Imaging (SWI) and the visualization of the venous anatomy of the head and neck. Dr. Haacke's imaging protocol can be found at <http://ms-mri.com/potential.php>.

Researchers suspect iron build up occurs secondary to blocked or narrowed veins in the head or neck in MS patients. SWI, an MRI sequence, is able to accurately determine iron or other heavy metal deposits in the brain. SWI is the only way to accurately visualize these iron deposits.

KMH performs MR Venography which allows assessment of the venous flow in multiple areas including: the upper and lower parts of jugular veins, transverse sinuses, the superior sagittal sinus and the straight sinus of the brain. By examining all of these structures, accurate assessment of venous narrowing can be obtained. While some clinics may use ultrasound to screen for CCSVI, standard ultrasound cannot "see" through bone and is limited by being highly "user dependent". A regular ultrasound can only give information on the jugular veins in the neck after they exit the skull. KMH MR Venography does not have these limitations. In fact, it can easily view the veins inside or outside the skull, neck or chest.

To find out more or schedule an appointment for your patient at one of our locations Call: 1-877-564-5227 or 905-855-1860.



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Note: The decision to seek treatment of any kind is a personal one. KMH respects the right of people living with MS, their physician and their families to make their own treatment decisions including the choice to seek treatments which may be considered experimental.